The suggestion was not found to be feasible.

(d) Government of India had constituted a Nodal Agency to ascertain whether sick textile mills are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages in respect of mills found by it to be potentially viable. A Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has also been set up to consider the cases of sick textile companies and a Textile Modernisation Fund created to meet the modernisation needs of textile mills. Non-viable mills may have to close down permanently.

Establishment of a desert biosphere reserve in Thar desert

1383 .SHRI AJIT p. K. JOGI. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether^Government have taken up a Rs. 90 crore project in Thar desert of Rajasthan for establishkig the first desert bio-sphere reserve in the world;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Rajasthan Government is not cooperating in the execution of this project because of the possibility of line-stone reserves in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Project proposes setting up of a biosphere reserve in about 3,100 sq. km. in Jaisalmej and Barmer districts, with a core area of approximately 600 sq. km. Further details including financial details will be available only after the project details are drawn Up.

(c) No, Sir.

Land acquired by the Cardamom Boar for construction of its headquarters in Cochin

1384. SHRI T. K. VADUTHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land acquired near Ernakulam Bye-pass in Cochin in 1979, for the construction of a Vadquarters office for Cardamom Bo. still remains unutilised and what is the cost of acquisition;

(b) what is the monthly rent paid for the building presently used and how much expenditure has been incurred thereon from 1979 to 31st December, 1987 and

(o) what was the price of Cardamom per kg. in the open market during 1987-88 and that charged by the Board for its sales from Boards Counter towards safes promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The land measuring 0.41 hectares was acquired at a cost of Rs. 2.15 lakhs.

(b) Monthly rent paid for the present main building is Rs. 40,0^01- and for twtT other buildings is Rs. 8,800|-7 Expenditure on rent from 1979-80 to December '87 is as follows:—

Year	Rs. in lakhs
1979-80	0.96
1980-81	.. . 0.97
1981-82	1.17
1982-83	1.17
1983-84	l.\§7
1984-85	2.43
1985-86	2.55
1986-87	5.15
1987-88 (upto December)	5.72

(c) The prices for best quality (AGEBj Cardamom in the terminal domestic market were in. the range of Rs. 300—350 per kg. during 1987-88. The Board has been undertaking promotional sales of best quality cardamom at tii-j raie of Rs. 240/- per kg. till December, 1987 in consumer packets. The price has been revised to Rs. 280|. per kg. from January, 1988 due to like in the purchase price.

Water disputes between Rajasttian and Madhya Pradesh

1385. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to (state:

(a) how many water disputes are pending between the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) what are the details in this regard and what is holding up their settlement?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RE SOURCES (SHRI D1NESHSINGH): (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

Environment Research Promotion Programme

1386. SHRI SAGAR RAYKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the total number of research projects granted to the various Research Institutes under the Environmental Research Promotion Pro gramme during the year 1987 and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): 80 Research Projects were granted to various research institutions during the year 1987. The details are provided in the enclosed statement. *[See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 54].

Rejuvenation of old tea Gardens

1387. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to re-juvenate the old tea gradens, State-wise;

(b) what steps are being taken for tea plantation in non-traditional areas; and

(c) what are lhe names of the regions in Uttar Pradesh which have been found suitable for tea plantation and what ac tion is being initiated by the Central Gov ernment for tea planatation in these re gions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE [MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Tea Board has been operating various schemes namely Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, Re-plantation Subsidy Scheme, and Tea Area Rejuvenation and Consolidation Subsidy Scheme with a view to rejuvenate the tea estates in the country are eligible to get assistance from these Schemes of the Board.

(b) Tea Board operates a loan-cum-subsidy schemes viz. New Tea Unit Financing Scheme for extension of tea cultivation in the non-traditional areas of Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

(c) The Kumacm and Garhwal Divisions of Uttar Pradesh have been found suitable for tea cultivation as per the Techino-economic Survey of these regions conducted by Tea Board. The following steps have been taken for increasing tea production in these area:

(i) Inclusion of hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh in the schedule of approved non-traditional areas for providing loan and subsidy under the New Tea Unit Financing jScheme of the Board;

(ii) Decision to set up a regional office of the Tea Board at I.ucknow;
and